

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01

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EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /080 W
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INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

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TAGS: PBOR, ELAB, MX

SUBJECT: UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS: CALUMNY CONTINUES BUT A FEW VOICES
OF DISSENT ARE HEARD.

REF: MEXICO 9867

1. CURRENT WAVE OF CRITICAL OFFICIAL COMMENT AND JOURNALISTIC ANALYSIS REGARDING SUPPOSED NEW "MASSIVE DEPORTATION" OF UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN MIGRANTS FROM US CONTINUES. IMPRESSION IS ALMOST UNIVERSAL NOW THAT INS EXPERIMENTAL AIR REPATRAITION PROGRAM IS PART OF A MAJOR NEW EXPULSION EFFORT, AND GOM HAS DONE NOTHING TO CORRECT THIS IMPRESSION. INSTEAD, DIFFERENT GOM OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL FIGURES CONTINUE TELLING NEWS-MENT THAT "MASSIVE DEPORTATION" IS A TREMENDOUS INJUSTICE BEING COMMITTED AGAINST MEXICANS (IN THE WORDS THIS TIME OF NATIONAL CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES LEADER CARLOS SANORES PEREZ), "ESPECIALLY WHEN THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THESE HAVE BEEN LURED TO THE US BY DECEPTION, WITH THE HOPE OF BIG SALARIES, THEN ARE TOSSED OUT AFTER THE HARVEST."

2. IN LAST FEW DAYS, HOWEVER, NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED
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INTERVIEWS WITH A FEW OFFICIALS AND AUTHORTIES TAKING AN

OPPOSITE VIEW. FOR EXAMPLE:

--GOVERNOR MANUEL ZARATE OF OAXACA DEFENDED DEPORTATION AS "NORMAL." "WE WOULD DO THE SAME IF A HALF MILLION GUATEMALANS ENTERED ACROSS OUR SOUTHERN BORDER, TOOK SCARCE JOBS, AND FORCED WAGES DOWN." ZARATE TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE THOUGHT DEPORTATIONS WERE IN FACT A GOOD THING FOR MEXICO, SINCE THEY OBLIGED BUREAUCRATS TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THIS COUNTRY'S RURAL PROBLEMS, AND SINCE THEY BROUGHT BACK TO MEXICO SOME OF ITS BEST DISCIPLINED, HARDEST-WORKING CITIZENS EQUIPPED WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES.

--GOVERNOR MILTON CASTELLANOS OF BAJA CALIFORNIA, ALSO TOOK ISSUE WITH THOSE BLAMING US FOR BRACERO PROBLEM. "WE CAN'T ASK THE US TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM FOR US. OUR PEOPLE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO GO THERE (FOR JOBS); WE SHOULD PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT AND MEANS OF SUSTENANCE FOR THEM HERE IN MEXICO." HE ADDED THAT MIGRATION PROBLEM AFFECTED HIS STATE DIRECTLY, SINCE SO MANY USED BAJA CALIFORNIA AS A JUMPING OFF PLACE TO ENTER US. AS THEIR NUMBERS BUILD UP THERE, SOME TAKE JOBS, OTHERS LOOK FOR TROUBLE, AND ALL EVENTUALLY BECOME SOCIAL AND EVEN CRIMINAL PROBLEMS FOR THAT STATE.

--DR. JORGE BUSTAMANTE OF COLEGIO DE MEXICO TOLD EXCELSIOR AUGUST 5 THAT THERE WAS "NOTHING NEW" ABOUT THE CURRENT INS DEPORTATION ACTIVITY "EXCEPT THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WAS PAYING AIR FARES FOR SOME PERSONS BEING EXPELLED." HYSTERICAL CHARGES CURRENTLY BEING MADE ONLY REFLECTED "TOTAL IGNORANCE" OF THOSE MAKING THEM. BUSTAMANTE SAID THAT "STONE AGE" RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND MEXICAN GOVERNMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE MAINLY MEXICO'S FAULT BECAUSE IT FAILED TO STAND UP TO "POWER CENTERS IN US", AND BECAUSE IT FAILED TO APPLY IMAGINATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF RURAL PROBLEMS IN ORDER TO CREATE ALTERNATIVE JOBS FOR MEXICANS HERE. BUSTAMANTE ALSO TOOK SWIPE AT GENERAL CHAPMAN, HOWEVER, SAYING HE CONTINUED TO MAKE SCANDALOUSLY EXAGGERATED ESTIMATES ON NUMBER OF UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN MIGRANTS IN THE US, ESTIMATES WHICH HE SAID WERE CONTRADICTED BY US CENSUS BUREAU AND OTHER USG AGENCIES.

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3. EVEN AMONG THOSE WHO FULMINATED ABOUT SUPPOSED MASSIVE DEPORTATION PROGRAM, THERE IS GROWING AWARENESS THAT MEXICO ITSELF MUST ACT TO DEAL WITH RURAL PROBLEMS WHICH OBLIGE MIGRANTS TO SEARCH FOR WORK ACROSS THE BORDER. EVEN CHAMBER LEADER SANSORES PEREZ OBSERVED THAT THE "FLAG OF LAND REDISTRIBUTION" WAS NO LONGER SUFFICIENT TO SATISFY CAMPESINO NEEDS: "WE NEED TO PRODUCE MORE IN THE CAMPO, GENERATE MORE JOBS, BUILD AGRO-INDUSTRIAL

COMPLEXES WHICH WILL ABSORB MORE LABOR, MAKE CREDITS MORE EASILY AVAILABLE TO SMALL FARMERS...TO PRETEND TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF POPULATION GROWTH WITH SOMETHING WHICH DOES NOT GROW, I.E. LAND, IS HOPELESS ISSUE."

4. JORGE BUSTAMANTE OFFERED HIS OWN SOMEWHAT MORE REFINED SOLUTION, AIMED AT KEEPING POTENTIAL ILLEGALS ON THIS SIDE OF BORDER: THROUGH INTENSIVE GOM INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, "UNITS OF PRODUCTION" SHOULD

BE FORMED THROUGHOUT RURAL AREAS IN FIVE STATES OF HIGHEST OUT-MIGRATION. THESE PRODUCTION UNITS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO UTILIZE LABOR-INTENSIVE TECHNIQUES AND APPLY THEM TO PROCESSING RURAL AGRICULTURAL GOODS. THE US GOVERNMENT, IN TURN, SHOULD GUARANTEE PURCHASE OF THESE PRODUCTS FOR AT LEAST FOUR YEARS, MAKING THEM A PART OF WORLD-WIDE US FOOD AID PROGRAMS. BOTH US AND MEXICAN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PROMOTE CREATION OF "UNITS OF PRODUCTION" AS SOLUTION FOR MIGRATION PROBLEM-- NOT TO INCREASE PRODUCTION SO MUCH AS TO CREATE NEW JOBS.
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